UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.241/54
24 June 1996

ENGLISH
Original : ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Ninth session
New York, 3-13 September 1996
Agenda item 2

DESIGNATION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FUNCTIONING: PHYSICAL LOCATION

Note by the Secretariat

1. INCD decision 7/5, adopted at the Committee's seventh session, took note of the interest expressed by some governments at that session in hosting the Permanent Secretariat. It also invited interested Governments to transmit the details of their offers in writing to the Interim Secretariat, taking into account the elements of information with respect to this issue contained in Annex II to document A/AC.241/34, as amended.[1] Paragraph (c) of decision 7/5 requested the Interim Secretariat to present a compilation of offers received at the ninth session of the Committee.

2. In decision 8/2 at its eight session, the INCD then requested Governments interested in hosting the Permanent Secretariat to submit the details of their offers, pursuant to its decision 7/5, prior to 1 June 1996.

3. Prior to 1 June 1996, the Interim Secretariat received offers from the Governments of Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany and Spain to host the Permanent Secretariat in Montreal, Bonn and Murcia respectively.

4. For ease of reference, Annex A reproduces the text of Annex II of document A/AC.241/34, as amended. Documents A/AC.241/54/Add. 1, 2 and 3 contain the Canadian, German and Spanish offers.

[1]The amendment added the words "as well as support provided for the INCD process" at the end of paragraph 10 of Annex II.

GE.96-62403
96-20057

ANNEX A

Categories of information which might be requested from countries interested to host the Permanent Secretariat
(Amended version of Annex II of document A/AC.241/34)

Legal framework

1. Privileges and immunities which would be conferred on the Permanent Secretariat and its staff members

2. Rules, including any restrictions, applicable to the employment of dependents of staff members

3. Nature of Headquarters agreement, if needed

Features of the office site and related financial issues

4. Main features of the building to house the Permanent Secretariat, including office space, facilities for conferences and availability of general services (security, maintenance, etc)

5. Basis for placing the office facilities at the disposal of the Permanent Secretariat, such as:

   (a) ownership by the Permanent Secretariat (through donation or purchase)

   (b) ownership by the host government without rent

   (c) host Government ownership with rent and amount of such rent

6. Responsibility for:

   (a) major maintenance and repairs to the office facilities

   (b) normal maintenance and repair

   (c) utilities, including communication facilities

7. Extent to which the office facilities would be furnished and equipped by the host Government

8. Duration of the arrangements regarding office space

Local facilities and conditions

9. Description of the following facilities and conditions:

   (a) diplomatic representation in the host city

   (b) presence of international organizations

   (c) international transport and travel facilities

(d) local transport facilities

(e) local availability of trained personnel for possible employment in the Permanent Secretariat, taking account of language and other skills

(f) health facilities and access to them by staff members of the Permanent Secretariat

(g) availability of suitable housing

(h) availability of schools at all levels, including in languages other than local language, if any

(i) facilities for transfer of funds to and from foreign countries for the Permanent Secretariat and its staff members

Other relevant information

10. Any additional contributions to be made by the host Government to meet the operating costs of the Permanent Secretariat or to defray conference service expenses, as well as support provided for the INCD process

11. Any other information which the potential host country may deem relevant